

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (withdrawn) A network based system for reconciling accounts between a parent and a subsidiary of a business entity using an account reconciliation system coupled to a centralized database, said method comprising the steps of:

accessing an account reconciliation system after logging onto the system with a user identification and a password;

receiving account information from a centralized database; and

submitting accounting entries to balance the account based on the received account information to the centralized database to reconcile account variances.

2. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving account information further comprises the step of displaying at least one of a BSLA, an affiliate BSLA, an Account Number, a Description of the Account, a Treasury Balance indicating the treasury balance booked by a parent corporation, a Business Balance indicating the amount booked by a subsidiary of the parent corporation, a Contact Name of the BSLA selected, a Contact Phone Number of the contact name, a Fiscal Month, a start date 214 of the fiscal month, and an end date of the fiscal month.

3. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving account information further comprises the step of receiving a variance amount between a business balance and a treasury balance.

4. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving account information further comprises the steps of:

displaying at least one row to enter information; and

displaying at least one column to allow a user to input a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity.

5. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of submitting accounting entries to balance the account further comprises the steps of:

entering against an account identifier at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity; and

storing against the account identifier at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity.

6. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of submitting accounting entries to balance the account further comprises the steps of:

computing a new account variance between a business balance and a treasury balance;

downloading the new account variance; and

displaying the new account variance.

7. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 6 wherein said step of displaying further comprises the step of generating account reconciliation information in a variety of reporting formats.

8. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 7 wherein said step of generating further comprises the steps of:

downloading requested information from a server system; and

displaying requested information on a client system in response to the inquiry.

9. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 7 wherein said step of generating further comprises the step of printing requested information.

10. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 7 wherein said step of generating information further comprises the steps of:

receiving an inquiry from a user;

accepting the inquiry from a user; and

delivering information to the user in response to the inquiry.

11. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving an inquiry from the client system further includes the step of submitting a request through pull down menus.

12. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 8 wherein said step of displaying information further includes the step of displaying an HTML document downloaded by the server system.

13. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 8 wherein said step of displaying further comprises the step of displaying at least one alternative from various alternatives available to the user.

14. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 8 wherein said step of downloading the information in response to the inquiry further comprises the steps of:

accessing the centralized database;

searching the database regarding the specific inquiry;

retrieving information from the database; and

transmitting the retrieved information to the client system for display by the client system.

15. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of submitting accounting entries to balance the account further comprises the step of selecting one of a method for submitting accounting entries out of at least an Enter Cash Account Reconciliation and a Down/Upload Cash Account Reconciliation.

16. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 15 wherein said step of submitting accounting entries by utilizing the Enter Cash Account Reconciliation further comprises the steps of:

entering a user input against an account identifier including at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity;

storing the user input against the account identifier at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity;

uploading the user input to update the account information; and

computing a new account variance between a business balance and a treasury balance.

17. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 15 wherein said step of submitting accounting entries by utilizing the Down/UpLoad Cash Account Reconciliation further comprises the steps of:

creating required files associated with the account;

displaying against an account identifier, at least one of a BSLA, an affiliate BSLA, an Account Number, a Description of the Account, a Treasury Balance indicating the treasury balance booked by a parent corporation, a Business Balance indicating the amount booked by a subsidiary of the parent corporation, a Contact Name of the BSLA selected, a Contact Phone Number of the contact name, a Fiscal Month, a start date of the fiscal month, and an end date of the fiscal month;

displaying at least one column to allow a user to input at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity;

accepting a user input against the account identifier, at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity; and

storing the user input against the account identifier, at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity.

18. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 17 wherein said step of storing the user input against the account identifier further comprises the steps of:

uploading the user input to update the account information; and

computing a new account variance between a business balance and a treasury balance.

19. (withdrawn) The method according to Claim 1 wherein the client system and the server system are connected via a network and wherein the network is one of a wide area network, a local area network, an intranet and the Internet.

20. (withdrawn) A network based method as utilized by a parent corporation to manage and track accounts, using an account reconciliation system coupled to a centralized database, said method comprising the steps of:

receiving account information;

analyzing accounting entries relating to the account based on the account information;

computing the account variance by comparing the received account information against the account information stored in a centralized database; and

reporting the account variance to a user in response to an inquiry.

21. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 1 further comprising submitting the account information to an account tracking application.

22. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving the account information further comprises the steps of receiving and storing at least one of a user's account balance information and reconciliation information.

23. (withdrawn) A method according to Claim 1 wherein said step of receiving the account information into the centralized database further comprises the step of receiving the account information at least via an intranet and the Internet.

24. (currently amended) A system for account reconciliation between a parent business entity and a subsidiary of the parent business entity, said system comprising:

at least one remote computer associated with the subsidiary, the subsidiary computer configured to prompt a user associated with the subsidiary to enter account data relating to business activities of the subsidiary;

at least one remote computer associated with the parent, the parent computer configured to prompt a user associated with the parent to enter account data relating to business activities of the subsidiary;

a centralized database for storing account information including account data maintained by the parent relating to business activities of the subsidiary, account data maintained by the subsidiary relating to the business activities of the subsidiary, and variance data showing differences between the parent account data and the subsidiary account data; and

a server associated with the parent in communication with each of the subsidiary computer, the parent computer and the centralized database, the server configured to:

receive the parent maintained account data from the parent computer;

receive the subsidiary maintained account data from the subsidiary computer;

calculate an account variance based on the parent maintained account data and the subsidiary maintained account data;

report the account variance to a user associated with the subsidiary by displaying on the subsidiary computer the account variance, an amount booked by the parent, and an amount booked by the subsidiary;

reconcile the account variance by displaying a data entry table on the subsidiary computer to prompt ~~prompting~~ the user associated with the subsidiary to enter ~~into the~~

~~subsidiary computer~~ additional accounting entries relating to the business activities of the subsidiary that may not have been included in the account variance calculation, and ~~providing~~ displaying on the subsidiary computer guidelines ~~to the user~~ relating to the account variance and the additional accounting entries to assist the user associated with the subsidiary in reconciling the account variance including guidelines relating to at least one of a timing of recording items including whether there are time lags between a time when the parent records an account receivable or an account payable associated with the subsidiary and a time when the subsidiary records the same account receivable or account payable, methods used for reporting account information including whether the parent account data and the subsidiary account data are based on a cash basis or an accrual basis, a discrepancy in an amount, exchange rates used by the parent and subsidiary, whether at least one of an overhead charge and a management fee has been charged to the subsidiary by the parent, and whether there have been any improper entries charged to the subsidiary;

automatically compare the additional accounting entries to the account data stored in the database to determine whether any of the additional accounting entries are duplicative of the account data stored in the database;

automatically update the account variance and the amount booked by the subsidiary as displayed on the subsidiary computer based on the additional, non-duplicative accounting entries; and

update the account information stored in the database based on the additional, non-duplicative accounting entries.

25. (original) A system according to Claim 24 wherein said server is further configured to automatically submit the account information to an account tracking application.



26. (original) A system according to Claim 24 wherein said server is configured to receive information by at least one of the Internet, an intranet, a wide area network and a local area network.

27. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 24 wherein said server is configured to prompt a user associated with the subsidiary to input into the subsidiary computer account information including at least one of an amount booked by the subsidiary, an amount booked by the parent, a currency code, a conversion rate, a local amount, a transaction date, and an amount identified in a journal of the parent.

28. (original) A system according to Claim 24 wherein said server is configured to receive and store profile information.

29. (original) A system according to Claim 28 wherein said server is further configured to analyze the profile information for restricted access.

30. (original) A system according to Claim 24 wherein said server is configured to calculate an account variance using a pre-defined algorithm.

31. (original) A system according to Claim 24 wherein said server is configured to receive and store reconciliation information.

32. (currently amended) A network-based system for managing accounts reconciliation between a parent business entity and a subsidiary of the parent business entity, said system comprising:

at least one remote sub-system associated with the subsidiary, the subsidiary sub-system comprising a browser and configured to prompt a user associated with the subsidiary to enter account data relating to business activities of the subsidiary;

at least one computer associated with the parent, the parent computer configured to prompt a user associated with the parent to enter account data relating to business activities of the subsidiary;

a data storage device for storing account information including account data maintained by the parent relating to business activities of the subsidiary, account data maintained by the subsidiary relating to the business activities of the subsidiary, and variance data showing differences between the parent maintained account data and the subsidiary maintained account data; and

a server sub-system associated with the parent and in communication with each of the subsidiary sub-system, the parent computer, and said database, said server sub-system further configured to:

receive the parent maintained account data from the parent computer;

receive the subsidiary maintained account data from the subsidiary sub-system;

calculate an account variance based on the parent maintained account data and the subsidiary maintained account data;

report the account variance to a user associated with the subsidiary by displaying on the subsidiary sub-system the account variance, an amount booked by the parent, and an amount booked by the subsidiary;

reconcile the account variance by displaying a data entry table on the at least one subsidiary sub-system to prompt ~~prompting~~ the user associated with the subsidiary to enter ~~into the at least one subsidiary sub-system~~ additional accounting entries relating to the business activities of the subsidiary that may not have been included in the account variance calculation, and ~~providing~~ displaying on the at least one subsidiary sub-system guidelines ~~to the user~~ relating to the account variance and the additional accounting

entries to assist the user associated with the subsidiary in reconciling the account variance including guidelines relating to at least one of a timing of recording items including whether there are time lags between a time when the parent records an account receivable or an account payable associated with the subsidiary and a time when the subsidiary records the same account receivable or account payable, methods used for reporting account information including whether the parent account data and the subsidiary account data are based on a cash basis or an accrual basis, a discrepancy in an amount, exchange rates used by the parent and subsidiary, whether at least one of an overhead charge and a management fee has been charged to the subsidiary by the parent, and whether there have been any improper entries charged to the subsidiary;

automatically compare the additional accounting entries to the account data stored in the data storage device to determine whether any of the additional accounting entries are duplicative of the account data stored in the data storage device;

automatically update the account variance and the amount booked by the subsidiary as displayed on the subsidiary sub-system based on the additional, non-duplicative accounting entries; and

update the account information stored in the data storage device and the account variance based on the additional, non-duplicative accounting entries.

33. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said subsidiary sub-system is further configured with:

a displaying component to display available options to the user associated with the subsidiary; and

a sending component to send an inquiry to the server sub-system so that the server sub-system can process and download the requested information to the subsidiary sub-system.

34. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 33 wherein said server sub-system is further configured to prompt a user associated with the subsidiary to input into the at least one subsidiary sub-system account information including at least one of an amount booked by the subsidiary, an amount booked by the parent, a currency code, a conversion rate, a local amount, a transaction date, and an amount identified in a journal of the parent.

35. (original) A system according to Claim 34 wherein the sending component functions in response to a voice command.

36. (original) The client system of Claim 32 wherein said system is further configured to be protected from access by unauthorized individuals.

37. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server sub-system is further configured with:

a collection component for collecting information from users into the centralized database;

a tracking component for tracking information on an on-going basis;

a displaying component for displaying information;

a receiving component for receiving an inquiry from the subsidiary sub-system; and

an accessing component for accessing the centralized database and causing the retrieved information to be displayed on the subsidiary sub-system.

38. (original) A system according to Claim 37 wherein said server sub-system further configured with a receiving component for receiving an inquiry to provide information from one of a plurality of users.

39. (original) A system according to Claim 37 wherein said server sub-system further configured with a processing component for searching and processing received inquiries against

the data storage device containing a variety of information collected by the collection component.

40. (original) A system according to Claim 37 wherein said server sub-system further configured with a retrieving component to retrieve information from the data storage device.

41. (original) A system according to Claim 37 wherein said server sub-system further configured with an information fulfillment component that downloads the requested information after retrieving from the database to the plurality of users in the order in which the requests were received by the receiving component.

42. (original) A system according to Claim 37 wherein said server sub-system further configured to print requested information.

43. (original) A system according to Claim 37 wherein said server sub-system further configured to accept an inquiry from a user.

44. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 37 wherein said server sub-system further configured to:

display information on the subsidiary sub-system; and

receive an inquiry from the subsidiary sub-system.

45. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server sub-system further configured to:

display information on the subsidiary sub-system; and

receive an inquiry from the subsidiary sub-system.

46. (original) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server sub-system further configured to:

track information on a real time basis; and

store information on a real time basis by adding new information to the centralized database on a real time basis to provide up-to date information instantaneously to the user upon a request.

47. (original) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server sub-system further configured to receive information entered on-line.

48. (original) A system according to Claim 47 wherein said server sub-system further configured to receive information entered through at least one of a voice activation command and a device connected to the client sub-system.

49. (original) A system according to Claim 47 wherein said server sub-system further configured to submit a request through pull down menus.

50. (original) A system according to Claim 45 wherein said server sub-system further configured to display an HTML document downloaded by the server sub-system.

51. (original) A system according to Claim 45 wherein said server sub-system further configured to display at least one alternative out of various alternatives available to the user.

52. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server sub-system further configured to receive account information by displaying on a subsidiary sub-system at least one of a BSLA, an affiliate BSLA, an Account Number, a Description of the Account, a Treasury Balance indicating the treasury balance booked by a parent corporation, a Business Balance indicating the amount booked by a subsidiary of the parent corporation, a Contact Name of the BSLA selected, a Contact Phone Number of the contact name, a Fiscal Month, a start date of the fiscal month, and an end date of the fiscal month.

53. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server sub-system further configured to receive account information by receiving a variance amount between a business balance and a treasury balance.

54. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server sub-system further configured to receive account information by:

displaying a table for entering information wherein the table includes at least one column prompting a user to input at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity.

55. (original) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server sub-system further configured to:

enter against an account identifier at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity; and

store against the account identifier at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity.

56. (original) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server sub-system further configured to:

compute a new account variance between a business balance and a treasury balance;

download the new account variance; and

display the new account variance.

57. (original) A system according to Claim 56 wherein said server sub-system further configured to generate account reconciliation information in a variety of reporting formats.

58. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 57 wherein said server sub-system further configured to:

download requested information from said server sub-system; and

display requested information on said subsidiary sub-system in response to the inquiry.

59. (original) A system according to Claim 57 wherein said server sub-system further configured to print requested information.

60. (original) A system according to Claim 57 wherein said server sub-system further configured to:

receive an inquiry from a user;

accept the inquiry from a user; and

deliver information to the user in response to the inquiry.

61. (original) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server sub-system further configured to submit a request through pull down menus.

62. (original) A system according to Claim 58 wherein said server sub-system further configured to display an HTML document downloaded by said server sub-system.

63. (original) A system according to Claim 58 wherein said server sub-system further configured to display at least one alternative from various alternatives available to the user.



64. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 58 wherein said server sub-system further configured to:

access the centralized database;

search the database regarding the specific inquiry;

retrieve information from the database; and

transmit the retrieved information to the subsidiary sub-system for display by the subsidiary sub-system.

65. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server sub-system further configured to select a method for submitting accounting entries from at least one of an Enter Cash Account Reconciliation and a Down/Upload Cash Account Reconciliation.

66. (original) A system according to Claim 65 wherein said server sub-system further configured to:

enter a user input against an account identifier at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity;

store the user input against the account identifier at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity;

upload the user input to update the account information; and

compute a new account variance between a business balance and a treasury balance.

67. (original) A system according to Claim 65 wherein said server sub-system further configured to:

create required files associated with the account;

display against an account identifier, at least one of a BSLA, an affiliate BSLA, an Account Number, a Description of the Account, a Treasury Balance indicating the treasury balance booked by a parent corporation, a Business Balance indicating the amount booked by a subsidiary of the parent corporation, a Contact Name of the BSLA selected, a Contact Phone Number of the contact name, a Fiscal Month, a start date of the fiscal month, and an end date of the fiscal month;

display at least one column to allow a user to input at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity;

accept a user input against the account identifier and at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity; and

store the user input against the account identifier and at least one of a dollar amount Booked by Business, a dollar amount Booked by Treasury, a Currency Code, a Conversion Rate, a Description, a date of transaction, an amount identified in Treasury Journal, a Treasury Source relating to the treasury journal, a code for an Office and a Legal Entity.

68. (original) A system according to Claim 67 wherein said server sub-system further configured to:

upload the user input to update the account information; and

compute a new account variance between a business balance and a treasury balance.

69. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 32 wherein said server sub-system further configured to connect to the subsidiary sub-system via a network and wherein the network is one of a wide area network, a local area network, an intranet and the Internet.

70. (previously presented) A network based account reconciliation system for reconciling accounts between a parent business entity and a subsidiary of the parent business entity, said account reconciliation system coupled to a centralized database, said system comprising:

a client sub-system associated with the subsidiary, the client sub-system including a browser and configured to prompt a user associated with the subsidiary to enter account data relating to the business activities of the subsidiary;

a remote computer associated with the parent, the parent computer configured to prompt a user associated with the parent to enter account data relating to the business activities of the subsidiary;

a data storage device for storing account information including account data maintained by the parent relating to business activities of the subsidiary, account data maintained by the subsidiary relating to the business activities of the subsidiary, and variance data showing differences between the parent maintained account data and the subsidiary maintained account data;

a server sub-system configured to be coupled to each of said client sub-system, said parent computer, and said database, said server sub-system further configured to:

receive the parent maintained account data from the parent computer;

receive the subsidiary maintained account data from the client sub-system;

calculate an account variance based on the parent maintained account data and the subsidiary maintained account data;

report the account variance to a user associated with the subsidiary by displaying on the client sub-system the account variance, an amount booked by the parent, and an amount booked by the subsidiary;

reconcile the account variance by prompting the user associated with the subsidiary to enter into the client sub-system additional accounting entries relating to the business activities of the subsidiary including at least one of an amount booked by the subsidiary, an amount booked by the parent, a currency code, a conversion rate, a local amount, a transaction date, and an amount identified in a journal of the parent;

automatically compare the additional accounting entries to the account data stored in the data storage device to determine whether any of the additional accounting entries are duplicative of the account data stored in the data storage device;

automatically update the account variance and the amount booked by the subsidiary as displayed on the client sub-system based on the additional, non-duplicative accounting entries; and

update the account information stored in the data storage device and the account variance based on the additional, non-duplicative accounting entries.

71. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 70 wherein said server sub-system further configured to reconcile the account variance by prompting a user associated with the subsidiary to input into the client sub-system account information relating to at least one of a timing of recording items including whether there are time lags between a time when the parent records an account receivable or an account payable associated with the subsidiary and a time when the subsidiary records the same account receivable or account payable, methods used for reporting account information including whether the parent account data and the subsidiary

account data are based on a cash basis or an accrual basis, a discrepancy in an amount, exchange rates used by the parent and subsidiary, whether at least one of an overhead charge and a management fee has been charged to the subsidiary by the parent, and whether there have been any improper entries charged to the subsidiary.

72. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 70 wherein said server sub-system further configured to receive and store at least one of a user's account balance information and reconciliation information.

73. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 70 wherein said server sub-system further configured to receive the account information via at least one of an intranet, the Internet, a local area network, and a wide area network.